

MINUTES  
OF THE  
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
**Cedar Bluff**  
**Baptist Association,**

HELD WITH  
UNION CHURCH, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALA.,  
SEPTEMBER 25th, 26th and 27th, 1896.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Eld. M. A. CORNELIUS, Moderator.  
J. C. HIGH, Clerk.

COLLINSVILLE, ALA.  
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1897.



## MINUTES.



The Cedar Bluff Association met with Union Church, Etowah county, September 25, 26 and 27th, 1896. Introductory sermon preached by Eld. H. T. Leath. Text—

### EVENING SESSION.

1:30 o'clock the Association was opened by the Moderator reading 102 Psalm. Prayer by Bro. Culberson. The churches were called and the following delegates were enrolled.

BETHLEHEM—L. Copeland, J. A. C. Sims.

CEDAR BLUFF—I. A. Ellis.

DEMARIS—D. A. Tucker, A. B. Griffin, H. Stone.

FARILL—J. L. Witt, J. C. Nixon.

FAIR HEAVEN—Represented by letter only.

GRAVEL SPRINGS—John Webb, Jessie Bruster.

LEESBURG—J. H. Williams, C. F. Nance.

MILL CREEK—G. M. Ball, J. C. High.

MT. BETHEL—J. N. Webb, H. T. Leath, J. T. Pledger, W. L. Little, T. W. Rinehart.

PLEASANT VALLEY—G. W. Parker, Bro. Clement.

ROCK HILL—J. H. Weaver.

SHADY GROVE—D. W. Thornton, J. S. Duncan, W. E. Sewell, F. M. Bishop, M. A. Cornelius.

ROUND MOUNTAIN—R. G. Harton, J. H. Shupp.

UNION—T. L. Wagnon, Rufus Brown, Frank Morris, A. S. Street.

UNITY—J. W. Hurley, M. C. Holcomb.

YELLOW CREEK—C. C. Lee, W. H. McBee.

The election of officers resulted in electing Eld. M. A. Cornelius, Moderator, and J. C. High, Clerk.

Gave an opportunity for the reception of new churches.

Invited corresponding brethren from other associations and enrolled W. W. Wester, W. L. Culberson, W. Y. Adams from Etowah Association, J. L. Daniel and Elder Robards from the Cherokee County Association and Bro. Bobo from the Cherokee Association.

The following committees were then appointed by Moderator:

ON DEVINE SERVICE—W. N. Sewell, T. L. Wagnon, H. Stone, J. H. Weaver, G. W. Parker.

ON FINANCE—I. A. Ellis, J. W. Hurley, J. H. Weaver.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS—J. L. Witt, J. Webb, J. Bruster.

ON STATE OF RELIGION—W. E. Sewell, P. Wagnon, W. H. McBee.

ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE—J. N. Webb, H. T. Leath, R. G. Harton.

ON PREACHING APPOINTMENTS (for next session)—D. W. Thornton, J. H. Shupp, Frank Morris.

ON DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTIONS—F. M. Bishop, J. H. Williams, D. A. Tucker.

Report on Temperance read and after some discussion the adoption of the report was postponed till tomorrow morning.

On motion adjourned to meet at 8:30 o'clock tomorrow morning. Prayer by Bro. Robards.

#### MORNING SESSION—SEPTEMBER 26.

8:30 o'clock the Association was opened by the Moderator reading 23 Psalm. The discussion on Temperance continued urging the importance of practicing temperance in our homes and discipling church members who continue the use of whiskey as a beverage. Report adopted.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

On motion the report on Sabbath Schools was postponed till morrow morning.

On motion the report on Missions was postponed till after the report on Sabbath Schools.

Report on Deceased Ministers read and adopted.

On motion suspended the regular order of business and engaged in prayer thanking God for preserving the lives of the ministers in this association during the past year.

Resumed the regular order of business and the report on State of Religion was read and adopted.

On motion the Moderator appointed a committee to report on the subject of Education: Appointed R. G. Harton and H. T. Leath. Report on Religious Literature read and adopted.

Extended the invitation to visiting brethren when Bro. A. E. Burns was recognized in his official capacity, representating the State Board of Missions, the Alabama Baptist and the Mission Journal.

Adjourned for preaching to meet at 1:30 o'clock. Sermon by Elder J. N. Webb. Text Acts 16 chapter 31 verse.

#### EVENING SESSION.

At the appointed hour the Association was called to order by the Moderator and report on Delegates to the Conventions and on Preaching Appointments were read and adopted.

In the absence of a committee took up general business.

It was ordered that the next meeting of the Association should be held on Friday before the 4th Lord's day in September, 1897, at Demaris Church. (Brethren who come by railroad will get tickets to Lawrence Station, Ala.)

Level Grove church asked for a letter of dismission and after some discussion the letter was granted.

Reports on Education and Finance read and adopted.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.

#### SUNDAY MORNING, 8 O'CLOCK.

The Association was opened by the Moderator reading the 19th Psalm. Read and approved minutes of yesterday. It was ordered by the Association that there should be a Fifth Sunday meeting held at Yellow Creek church in November.

On motion the Moderator appointed a committee on programme for said meeting which is as follows: W. M. Hicks, P. Wagon, W. E. Sewell and J. M. Thornton.

Reports on Sabbath Schools and Missions were read and adopted. Adjourned to meet at 1:30 o'clock.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The Moderator called the body together and appointed standing committees as follows: On Missions, J. N. Webb; on Sabbath Schools, J. S. Watt; on Temperance, H. T. Leath; on Education, J. C. High. Retained the Executive Committee for another, which is as follows: A. B. Griffith, G. M. Ball, R. S. Dean and W. F. Wilder.

Adjourned to meet with Denmaris church, Friday before the Fourth Lord's day in September, 1897.

M. A. CORNELIUS, Moderator.

J. C. HIGH, Clerk.



#### STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee beg to make the following report: We are glad to report that all our churches have had glorious meetings, a great revival in the membership of the same. We are glad to report that some of our churches are sustaining prayer meetings that calls forth the blessings of God, and we insist that all of our churches neglect not this great work. We also request that our churches neglect not the worthy poor of our churches, that they look after their welfare.

W. H. MCBEE, Chairman.

#### DECEASED MINISTERS.

We beg to report that the Lord has graciously spared all the ministers of this Association, let us be grateful to God for his great mercy in this, and show our appreciation to Him and them, in our better treatment of his servants. Many a preacher has come to a premature grave by over work and ill treatment of the churches. It is a fearful thought to remember that God is going to hold us accountable for the way in which we treat his servants, for he says "The workman is wor hy of his meat and they that preach the gospel should live of the gospel." And as to wrongfully persecuting a faithful minister he says, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my people no harm." Respectfully submitted.

J. L. WITT, JOHN WEBB, JESSIE BRUSTER.

#### RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

This is a subject of great importance. Our correctness in life will depend largely on what we read and how we read it. The first and most important thing to be read is the Bible. It is a safe guard against all skepticism and infidelity. The Bible is the book for parents to teach their children when they lie down, and when they rise up and when they walk by the way." We are sorry to say that this book is so much neglected and if we could say anything that would arouse these present and those who will read this report, to a more diligent search of God's word we would feel that we had both honored God and benefited our fellow man. We recommend a diligent study of our Sunday School Help. We would recommend to every family a religious paper or papers. Among the papers we would name the Baptist Helper published by W. H. Smith, Willett, Tenn.; The Texas Baptist Standard, and for state news the Alabama Baptist. J. N. WEBB.

### DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS.

We recommend as delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention: J. N. Webb, alternate J. S. Watt; to State Convention, M. A. Cornelius, Peter Wagnon, J. C. High.

Respectfully submitted, F. M. BISHOP.

### EDUCATION.

We are glad to say that we believe our people are becoming convinced of the importance of education and in every district and township they are trying to have a school of as long duration as their funds will allow. As to denominational schools we think our people are beginning to appreciate their value more than heretofore. It is true that the great Baptist School of our state, Howard College, and there is no better place to educate our sons, has been in a great strait and the present relief is only temporary and they stand in need of the hearty support of the great Baptist family of Alabama, but we think it is not for the want of sympathy of our people that they are not getting more assistance, but the cause is the poverty of our people. But we insist that it would be better to educate our children and suffer if need be and deny ourselves of as much as we can than to neglect the education of our children. We recommend the Judson for our girls. We hope the time is not far distant when every Association will have and support a Baptist school in their bounds. Respectfully submitted,

R. G. HARTON AND H. T. LEATH.

### PREACHING APPOINTMENTS.

We submit following report: Introductory Sermon: J. N. Webb, alternate, O. A. Gardner; Missionary Sermon, M. A. Cornelius, alternate, H. T. Leath.

Respectfully submitted, D. W. THORNTON.

### TEMPERANCE.

This subject is admitted, by all who consider it, to be one of importance both to state and church. It is common on all annual church gatherings to have a report on temperance and frequently pass resolutions strongly condemning the use of intoxicating drink, but when that is done it would seem that the brethren think their task on that subject was done. They seem to forget that action would speak louder for temperance than resolutions. It appears to your committee that the church is almost a sleep practically on this subject. They will resolution after resolution, yet they make very little effort to secure laws that would impede or prohibit its traffic. If brethren really desire to do away with the liquor traffic there is a better way than to read reports annually, while we do not condemn this practice. The law legalizes the sale of whiskey and the saloon keeper is not much more to blame than the church member who makes a practice of buying and drinking his whiskey as a beverage. The saloon gets its merchandise from the still house and then gets a good share of its trade from the still church member. If we ever accomplish much good for the cause of temperance we will have to practice what we preach, and educate the young people that to drink intoxicating drinks is unmanly and that it is not

Christ like. Teach them that the proper place for strong drink is on the outside of every well person.

Respectfully submitted, J. C. HIGH.

RESOLVED, That this body tender this church and community our hearty thanks for their kindness to us during our stay in their midst.

#### FINANCE.

We, your committee, beg leave to submit following report:

Received Home and Indian Missions.....	\$ 28 35
“ Foreign Missions.....	42 85
“ State “.....	30 32
“ Minutes.....	16 84
Public Collection.....	11 66
Vouches.....	32 15
Total .....	<u>\$162 17</u>

Respectfully submitted, I. A. ELLIS.

Error in the report of \$1.57.—Clerk.

#### FINANCE.

J. C. High in account with the Cedar Bluff Association:

Received Home Missions.....	\$ 28 35
“ Foreign Missions.....	42 85
“ State “.....	30 32
“ Public Collection.....	11 66
“ Minutes.....	16 84
Total.....	<u>\$130 02</u>

#### DISBURSEMENTS.

Foreign Missions to Bro. Burns.....	\$ 42 85
Home “ “ “.....	28 35
State “ “ “.....	30 32
Public Collection “ “.....	11 66
Minutes, Postage and Express.....	16 84
	<u>\$130 02</u>

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#### DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.

ARTICLE I. We believe that there are three that bear record in Heaven: The Father, Word and Holy Ghost: and that these three are one, the only living and true God, the Creator and Preserver of all men of the Universe.

II. We believe the Word was made flesh in the person of the man Christ Jesus, who is God over all, and blessed evermore.

III. That all scriptures as contained in the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

IV. That the law and testimony as set forth in the Scriptures is the only rule of faith and practice to Christians in their spiritual concerns, and in their conduct as individuals and as members of the churches.

V. That Adam, the natural head and representative of all

mankind, fell from his state of original purity, and that by his disobedience all his posterity are made sinners.

VI. That by the obedience of Christ alone sinners are restored to the favor of God, and through his unmerited mercy receives regeneration, pardon, justification, sanctification and glorification.

VII. That those blessings are communicated by that Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven, so those who are saved are saved by grace, through faith, and that not of themselves, not of work, lest any man should boast, not by words of righteousness which they have done, but by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

VIII. That God works all things after the council of His own will; foreknown unto Him are all his works from the beginning, and that of course, all that the Father hath given to Christ shall come to Him, and that He will raise them up at the last day, so that His sheep will hear, His voice shall never perish become dead to the world and to sin, be made alive to God and when He who is their life shall come, appear with Him in glory.

IX. We believe that believers should obey the commandments of Christ, and maintain good work for necessary uses.

X. That sinners of the vilest character may obtain salvation through Christ without money and without price.

XI. That there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, according to the decision of which the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous to life eternal.

XII. That God has instituted a church on earth, existing in distinct bodies, the only scriptural members of which are the faithful in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, who are immersed in water in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in the church relation by the will of God their voluntary consent.

XIII. That each church of Jesus Christ is independent of all authority but that of her head, and that she has under Him the exclusive power of managing all her concerns of judging of the qualifications of her own members for the offices they are to fill, and of choosing her own officers in conformity with the direction of the Word of God.

XIV. That the officers of the churches are pastors and deacons only.

XV. That scriptural baptism is an ordinance of the Gospel and consists in immersing the body of a disciple of the Lord Jesus in water upon a profession of his faith in Christ.

XVI. That the Lord's supper is a standing ordinance in the Church of Christ, consisting in a believing participation of bread and wine, to be observed in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ, and to show forth His death until He comes the second time.



# STATISTICS OF CEDAR BLUFF ASSOCIATION, 1896.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	CLERK'S POSTOFFICE.	Members last reported.	Increase.	Decrease.	Present Membership.	Sunday School Teachers.	Pupils .....	Preaching Sabbath.
Bethlehem.....	Cherokee	J A C Sims...	L Copeland..	Sand Rock.....	27	By Baptism..	By Letter...	27		1	1
Cedar Bluff .....	"	C S Johnson...	"	Cedar Bluff.....	75 10	By Restor'n	By Death....	94		1	1
Demaris .....	"	J N Webb....	G W Bishop..	Lawrence.....	80	By Exper'ce.	By Erasure..	73		40	2
Farill .....	"	H T Leath...	J C Nixon...	Farill.....	44	By Letter...	By Excluse'n.	37	3	60	3
Fair Haven.....	"	V A Bell....	J A Chandler	Farill.....	47	By Letter...	By Letter...	50	5	30	1
Gravel Springs.	"	J N Webb....	R S Dean....	Loop .....	22	By Letter...	By Letter...	18			3
Leesburg .....	"	M A Cornelias	J H Williams	Loop .....	8	By Letter...	By Letter...	10			1
Mt. Bethel.....	"	J N Webb....	W L Little...	Sand Rock.....	136	By Letter...	By Letter...	134	4	35	3
Mill Creek.....	"	V A Bell....	W H Helms..	Broomtown...	48 13	By Letter...	By Letter...	57	6	35	3
Pleasant Valley	"	A O Gardner.	J P Myrick..	Cedar Springs..	31 13 29	By Letter...	By Letter...	71			2
Rock Hill.....	"	J M Hend'rson	J H Weaver..	Jamestown ..	42	By Letter...	By Letter...	26			1
Round Mount'n	"	V A Bell....	J M Chancellor	Cedar Springs..	29	By Letter...	By Letter...	41	5	73	4
Shady Grove...	"	W P Whitton	F M Bishop..	Round Mount'n	92	By Letter...	By Letter...	113			3
Unity .....	"	H W Roberts	R W Bagley..	Maple Grove...	47	By Letter...	By Letter...	56	4	50	1
Union .....	Etowah.	M A Cornelias	T L Wagner..	Hurley. ....	127	By Letter...	By Letter...	128			1
Yellow Creek..	Cherokee	J W Ragan...	John Blevins	Ball Play. ..	58	By Letter...	By Letter...	67			3
				Leesburg .....	913 61 90 11			51 4002	38	323	
				Total.....	7 58 16						

# FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF

## CEDAR BLUFF ASSOCIATION, 1896.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Minutes ..	Vouchers .
Bethlehem ....	\$ .....\$	\$ .....\$	\$ 2 00\$	\$ 60\$	\$ .....\$
Cedar Bluff....	9 20	9 20	9 20	1 85	.....
Demaris .....	3 00	3 00	3 50	1 00	3 51
Gravel Springs.	.....	2 00	2 50	50	1 00
Fair Haven....	.....	2 00	.....	1 25	3 35
Farill .....	.....	1 27	2 00	1 00	2 84
Mill Creek....	5 35	5 35	5 35	1 00	5 25
Mt. Bethel....	4 00	4 00	4 40	1 54	1 53
Pleasant Valley	1 00	.....	1 30	1 25	.....
Rock Hill.....	50	.....	50	50	.....
Round Mount'n	.....	.....	3 25	1 35	2 22
Shady Grove..	.....	.....	75	1 60	5 50
Union .....	3 00	3 10	3 10	1 20	.....
Unity.....	.....	.....	4 70	1 00	2 35
Yellow Creek..	30	.....	30	75	.....
Leesburg. ....	2 00	40	.....	45	4 50
Total.....	\$28 35	\$30 32	\$42 85	\$16 84	\$32 05

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters from the churches.
2. Election of officers.
3. Reception of new churches.
4. Invite visiting ministers of our faith and order.
5. Call for correspondence.
6. Appointment of the following committees, to wit:
  1. On divine.
  2. On Finance.
  3. On Missions.
  4. On Education.
  5. On Sabbath Schools.
  6. On State of Religion.
  7. On Religious Literature.
  8. On Deceased Ministers.
  9. On Delegates to Conventions.
  10. On Preaching Appointments for next session.
7. Report of Committees.
8. General Business.
9. Appoint Correspondence.
10. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
11. Adjournment.



